in the statement (including enclosures) made b the Minister of External Affairs in Rajya Sabha on 10th December, 1985.

Pollution in Delhi and Chandigarh atmosphere

3171. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a report of the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis based in Austria to the effect that Delhi has suspended pariculate matter to the extent of 640-1000 microgram per cubic metre and that the annual geometric mean of dust in Chandigarh is considerably higher than the American standard; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sea shells and living snail shells in Andaman Islands

3172. SHRI D. HEERACHAND: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that sea shells and living snails shells found in and around the Andaman Islands are facing extinction due to their indiscriminate exports;

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps to protect those endangered species; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps Government propose to take to save the sea shells and living snails shells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) There is no evidence to this effect.

(b) and (c) Till 1983-84 sea shells and living snail shells were exported under open general licences. From 1984-85, a restriction was imposed allowing export 'On merit' basis only. The export consignments are also subject to preshipment examination by the regional offices of wildlife preservation. Collection from protected areas declared under Wild Life (Protection, Act, 1972 is also prohibited.

To exercise control over the collection of shells, licences are issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Andaman, under the Andaman and Nicobar Island Shell fishing Rules of 1978, under which shell fishing is prohibited during the breeding season (May-September) and sizes below 9.0 cm. are not permitted for collection. Further, the area around Andaman and Nicobar Islands are divided into 9 zones, and the quantity allowed previously which was 25 tonnes per each zone per season, has now been reduced to 20 tonnes.

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration propose to establish a marine national part n an area rich in marine life.

Creation of welfare fund for Defence Personnel

3173. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have created any fund for the welfare of serving defence personnel, ex-servicemen, their families and dependents;

(b) when such funds have also been created at the State level; and